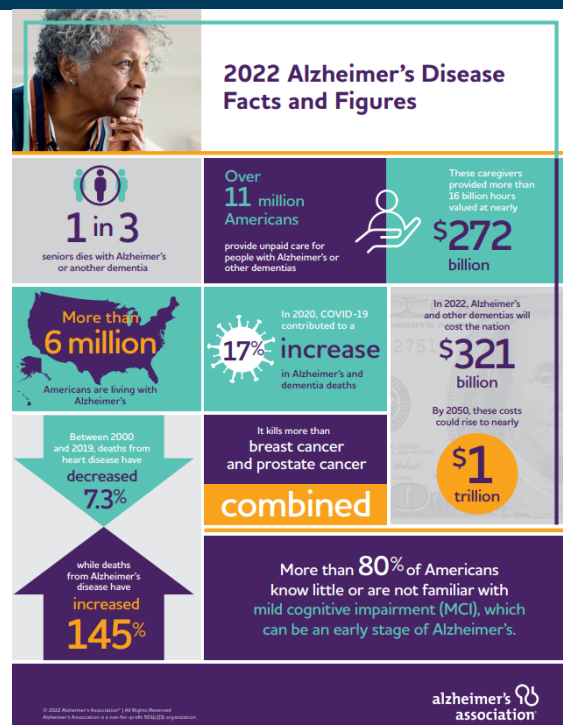


Supporting Those Impacted by Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementias

Alzheimer's disease is the most common cause of dementia in older adults. It is a progressive brain disorder that slowly destroys memory and thinking skills and is not a normal part of aging.

Supporting individuals living with Alzheimer's and other dementias, and their caregivers, takes on importance for faith communities, especially as we look at the [statistics](#). Alzheimer's is projected to rise in the U.S. from 6 million today to nearly 13 million by 2050, barring the development of a medical breakthrough to prevent, slow, or cure the disease.

Your faith community can meaningfully engage with members of your congregation living with Alzheimer's and other dementias and their families by:



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- Adapting worship services to be welcoming and supportive of people living with dementia. [Learn how.](#)
- Learning how to better communicate with a person who has Alzheimer's and dementia. [Learn more.](#)
- Encouraging members with Alzheimer's and dementia to participate in service projects and congregational events, like study groups, concerts, and plays.
- Asking members with Alzheimer's and dementia to participate in worship by handing out bulletins or doing a reading, for example.
- Creating a caregiver support group in your congregation.
- Arranging a free care consultation for family caregivers with staff at the Alzheimer's Association in [Illinois](#) and [Wisconsin](#).
- Providing respite care, allowing caregivers to step away to refresh and renew. While caregivers have a break, congregation volunteers can lead art, physical exercise, music, games, and other activities for family members with dementia to enjoy. Learn about respite care training programs in [Wisconsin](#) and [Illinois](#).

See other ideas you can implement in your congregation:

[Creating Dementia Friendly Faith Communities.](#)